

October 23, 2009

Maine Milk Commission Meeting Minutes
Deering Building, Room 233
Augusta, Maine 04333

Notices for the October 23, 2009 meeting were distributed to Commission members, intervenors and other interested parties September 18, 2009 and sent to the Secretary of State's Office for posting on September 21, 2009.

Commission Present: Richard Cook, John Joseph, Mark Hedrich, *ex-officio* and Acting Chairman Colon Durrell

Commission Absent: Michael Wiers

Department Officials: None

Staff Present: Tim Drake, Executive Director, and Carol Gauthier, Office Associate

Legal Counsel: None

Intervenors Present: John Blake, H.P. Hood, Inc., Thomas Brigham, Oakhurst Dairy, John Economy, Garelick Farms, Steve Culver, Marc Lessard and Linwood Wilson of Hannaford, Shelly Doak, Maine Grocers Association, Dale Cole, President of the Maine Dairy Industry Association (MDIA).

Others Present: Fred Hardy from MDIA; Deb Hart of Hart Public Policy, Chuck Farrand, Dairy farmer, Ruby Hardy and Mary Frank public attendees.

Acting Chair Durrell called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Agenda Item 1: Minutes: John Joseph made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 18, 2009 meeting. Richard Cook seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Agenda Item 2: Amy Mills, Assistant Attorney General: Not present.

Agenda Item 3: Minimum Prices:

Tim Drake reported that there is a prevailing premium of \$1.10/cwt on Class I for November 2009 reported by Dairy Marketing Services (DMS) and Agri-Mark Cooperative. In addition to this premium, both Agri-Mark and DMS reported that an additional \$0.43/cwt for milk that comes from producers who do not treat their cows with the rBST hormone will be in affect. Federal Order One Class I price for November is \$16.11. He explained that a schedule was prepared using this information plus a producer cost of production adjustment (COPA) of \$1.58/cwt. He stated that this price schedule was for information purposes and that the Commission was not bound to it, and should make their pricing determination after hearing testimony.

Acting Chairman Durrell asked if there were any comments or new information from the interveners.

Dale Cole of MDIA noted that Agri-Mark's \$1.00/cwt payment was an advance to owners on cheese profits but that last year farmers had to "give" back money for the make allowance. He also noted that corn prices were increasing and was at a four month high and that milk was still being sold at retail above the Maine minimums.

No other testimony was offered.

John Joseph made a motion to accept order 11-09 as prepared with a producer margin of \$1.58/cwt. Richard Cook seconded this motion. The motion passed 3-0

Agenda Item 4: Maine Monthly Price Survey: The Commission reviewed the Maine price survey for October 2009 which included prices for Augusta, Bangor/Brewer, Palmyra, Presque Isle, Houlton, Auburn and Brunswick. Tim Drake noted that two surveys were done this month at the Palmyra Wal-Mart because the first survey results were abnormally high and a second check was done later in the month with lower prices being found.

Price surveys for September were provided by IAMCA.

Agenda Item 5: Next Scheduled Meetings:

- November 20, 2009, Friday 1:30 p.m.
Room 233, Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources, Augusta ME
- December 18, 2009, Friday 1:30 p.m.
Room 233, Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources, Augusta ME
- January 12, 2010, Tuesday 10:00 a.m.
Agricultural Trades Show at the Augusta Civic Center
- January 22, 2010, Friday 1:30 p.m.
Room 233, Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources, Augusta ME
- February 19, 2010, Friday 1:30 p.m.
Room 233, Department of Agriculture, Food & Rural Resources, Augusta ME

Agenda Item 6: Other:

1. **Milk Commission Budget:** The Commission reviewed the latest budget summary.

Agenda Item 7: Executive Session: The Commission did not go into Executive Session.

Adjourned: Adjourned at 1:50 p.m. October 23, 2009.

Tim Drake, Maine Milk Commission